

From: David Brosnan
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/8/02 4:02am
Subject: Right or wrong?

To whom it concerns,

It is well documented that Mr. Gates and Mr. Allen "stole" the ideas that gave them the foundation to build their fortune on. Now they have the money and the power to buy up anything that looks like potential competition, re-jig it to their ethos and call it a Microsoft product. Their list of failures after they took over good potential products makes for quiet interesting reading, if you take the time, and their answer is to bring out the "latest" version (i.e. patch up the mistakes and see does it work). There is no come back for "down time" for users. If it was any other industry, you could sue their butt off to recover lost time and profits, but because they monopolise the market, there is no alternative worth having. They give the consumer the "middle finger" and know that they can do so without worrying about repercussions. Mr. Gates now gives a lot of money to good causes and that is commendable. But Mr. Gates only did it when he had more money than he or his heirs could ever spend, and it would seem, when the writing was on the wall that the industry was getting fed up with being told what the future would be according to Microsoft, that becoming a great philanthopist would fool the public into believing that a nice man like him could not possibly be an ogre. Competition begets corruption and in this case megomania, but it also fosters new ideas and inovation. Mr. Gates by his actions would like to control the market and dictate what we will have in "the future according to Gates". God better look out if Mr. Gates ever "gets religion". You as a nation do not put your fate in the hands of your President alone, you have your fail safe procedures. Please do not allow this man to be above all others. He does not need the money anymore so why should he object to his company being divided up into smaller parts and creating healthy competition, unless it is his ego he sees as being tampered with. You are our fail safe net, don't be deterred it what you believe is the right thing to do.

Rgds

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